# Alaska Local and Regional Information
## A Guide to ALARI
### Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Alaska Local and Regional Information (ALARI) is a set of web pages that provide economic information for geographic areas Alaska. Worker characteristics, occupation and industry information, demographics, and more, can be found all in one place for a specific area. ALARI can be viewed at http://labor.alaska.gov/research/alari/.

## The geographic areas of ALARI

The geographic areas defined in ALARI are:

· **Statewide.**
· E**conomic Region**. Anchorage/Mat-Su, Gulf Coast, Interior, Northern, Southeast, and Southwest.
· **Borough/Municipality and Census Area**. There are 16 boroughs, two municipalities, and 11 census areas in Alaska. Most of Alaska's area is outside of the boroughs and municipalities. Known as the "Unorganized Borough", this area has been divided into census areas for statistical purposes.
· **Place**. ALARI includes the 349 places defined by the United States Census Bureau for the 2000 census. A place is a concentration of population. It can be incorporated, such as a village, town, or city, or not. The unincorporated place, known as a census designated place (CDP), resembles an incorporated place, but has no local government.
· **Regional Advisory Council**. There is one web page representing the area included in the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NARAC). NARAC encompasses the eleven villages of the NANA Alaska Native Corporation. More Regional Advisory Council pages may be added in the future.

## Sources of ALARI's data

An area's data are based upon its residents[1]. That is, the numbers reflect where people live, not where they work. Residency is determined by the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) file. Besides place of residence, the PFD file provides age and gender characteristics of an area's population.

Employment information, such as a person's occupation, employer, and the number of quarters worked, comes from Alaska's Occupational Database (ODB). The ODB is built from the Quarterly Unemployment Insurance (UI) Contribution Reports submitted by employers. Almost every wage and salary worker in Alaska is included. Those excluded are federal workers, the self-employed, crew of small fishing operations, and owners and officers of companies.

ALARI's other sources of information are: PROMIS, the UI claims database; in-house yearly population estimates; and the 2000 census data.
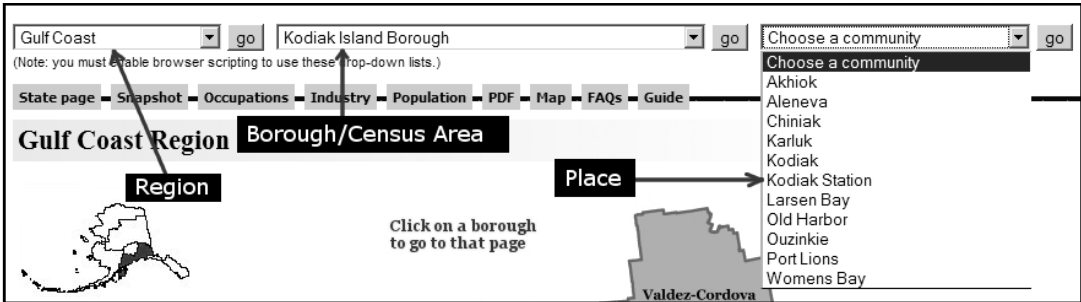
## Site Navigation

**Between pages**. Page to page navigation can be accomplished in a few ways. If JavaScript is enabled in the browser, the three drop-down lists below the page banner can navigate to the page desired. (See Exhibit 1.) Click the down arrows to display the list items. In the region list, "All Regions" represents the statewide page. A cascading relationship operates between these drop-down lists. When a region is selected, the boroughs/census areas and places will be limited to that region. When a borough/census area is selected, the places will be limited to the chosen borough/census area. To make all choices available, select "All Regions" from the region list. To go to the region, borough/census area, or place selected press the "go" button to the right of the desired area.
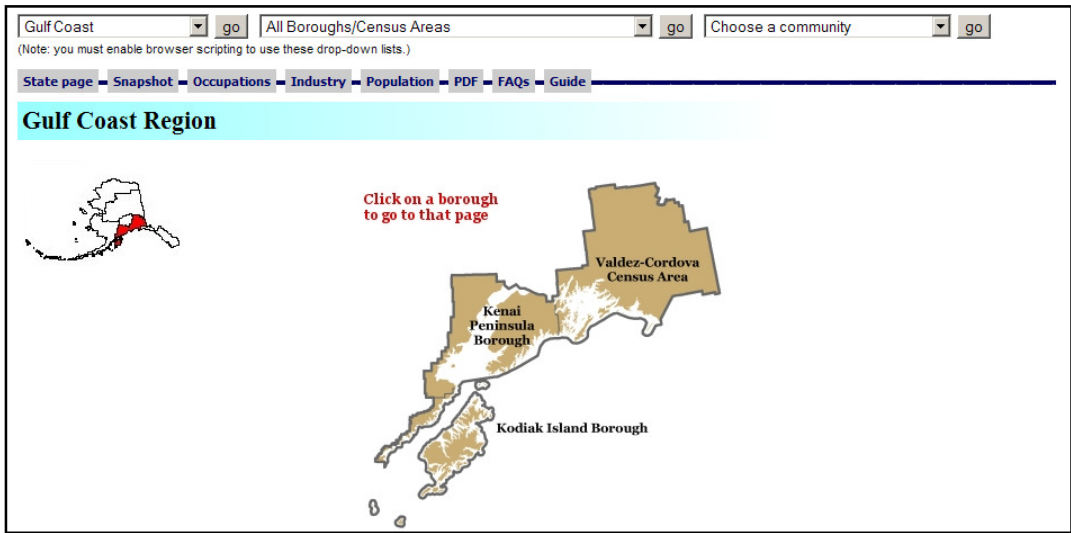
Another way to navigate on the statewide and region pages is to click on the map to go to the corresponding region or borough/census area. (See Exhibit 2.) Each borough/census area page
has a list of links to the places within that borough/census area. (See Exhibit 3.) The statewide page can be accessed from any page by clicking on the "State page" button located to the far left on the page navigation bar located below the three drop-down lists.

**Within the page**.  As an alternative to scrolling, areas within each web page can be jumped to using the page navigation bar which is below the drop-down lists described previously.  As mentioned above, the first button on that bar navigates to the statewide page.  The next four buttons will jump to the summary information ("Snapshot" table), occupations section, industry section, and the "Top Employers"/population section respectively.  An optional "Housing" button will appear on a select number of borough/census area pages that display rental housing information.  Next, the "PDF" button will open a PDF of the current web page.  The PDF should be used for printing purposes because the web pages do not print nicely.  The "Map" button appears next on all pages but the region pages.  This will open a more detailed map of the area in PDF format.  Detailed maps of the regions are currently not available.  Next is the "FAQs" button which navigates to the "Frequently Asked Questions" web page.  This is a good place to look for explanations of the data presented in ALARI.  And finally,  the "Guide" button on the far right opens this PDF.
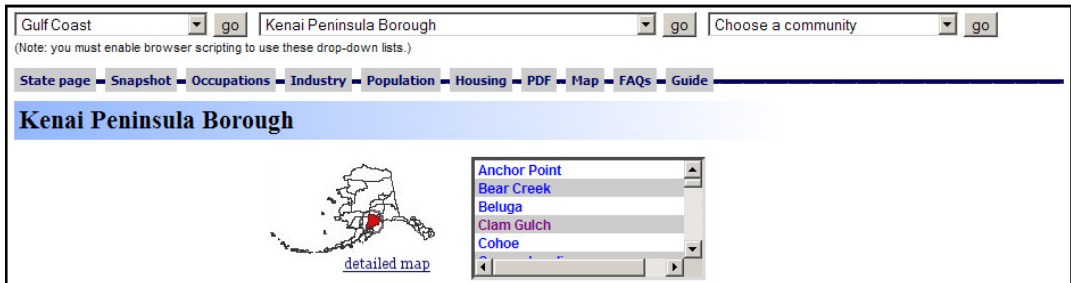
**1**  Navigational drop-down lists



**2**  Clickable map — Gulf Coast Region



**3** Links to places within the Kenai Peninsula Borough

**Snapshot**

Each web page begins with a brief narrative followed by the "Resident Snapshot" table.  (See Exhibit 4.)  This table lists:
- the number of working age residents;
- male/female and older workers counts;
- the number of UI claimants and new hires;
- total wages;
- counts of workers by private, state government, and local government sectors;
- peak quarter employment and percent of workers employed all four quarters;
- numbers of residents with experience in the construction industry; and
- the number of residents with experience in an AGIA occupation.  AGIA stands for Alaska Gasline Inducement Act.  Please see the May 2009 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends* for a list of the 113 occupations which have been determined to be the most needed for the building and operation of the Alaska gasline.
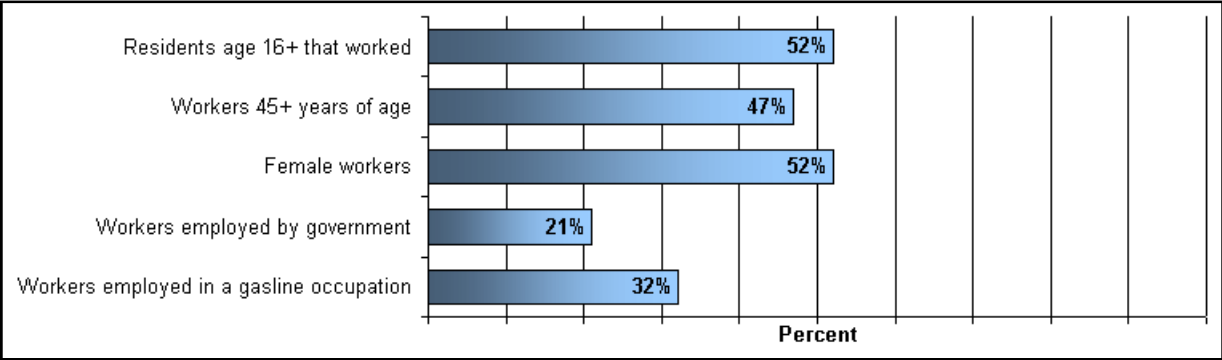
**4** Snapshot table — Homer

| Homer Resident Snapshot (2008) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Working Age Residents** | | **Wages** | |
| Residents age 16+ | 3,263 | Total wages | $50,031,324 |
| **Resident Worker Characteristics** | | **Resident Workers by Sector** | |
| Total | 1,695 | Private | 1,333 |
| Male | 805 | State government | 67 |
| Female | 887 | Local government | 295 |
| Age 45+ | 795 | **Quarterly Number of Resident Workers** | |
| Age 50+ | 612 | Peak (2nd) quarter workers | 1,483 |
| | | Percent working all 4 quarters | 62.0% |
| **Unemployment** | | **Construction/AGIA Occupation Experience (2004-2008)** | |
| UI Claimants | 280 | Some construction | 311 |
| | | At least 1 year construction | 167 |
| **New Hires** | | At least 2 years construction | 97 |
| New hires | 618 | Worked in an **AGIA** occupation | 1,241 |

An asterisk (*) means data are suppressed. Numbers may not sum due to rounding. **AGIA** (Alaska Gasline Inducement Act) means the occupation has been identified as a core occupation involved in the gasline project. For explanations of these terms and data, click here.

After the snapshot table is a bar chart representing the percentages of residents 16 years and over who were employed, workers 45 plus years old, female workers, and those who worked in a gasline occupation.  (See Exhibit 5.)  Note that this last measure is the percent of workers currently in an AGIA occupation.  The number displayed in the "Resident Snapshot" table is a count of those who were employed in an AGIA occupation within the last four years.

**5** Percentages bar chart — Homer

## Top Occupations

Next is the "Top Occupations" table.  The borough and census area "Top Occupations" tables differ from those of the other areas.  This is because non-Alaska and non-local resident data is displayed only on the borough and census area pages[1].  Occupations with at least five workers in the top 20 occupations, ordered by the number of workers, are listed.  (Note that some of the smaller places may have no occupations listed.)

The **borough** and **census area** "Top Occupations" tables show the number of residents employed, the percent of those residents employed who are female, and the number of residents age 50 plus.  The second to last column displays the percent of non-local workers in that occupation.   The last column is the percent of non-Alaska residents in that occupation.  Unlike the first three columns of data, this nonresident information is based on where a person works rather than where that person lives.   (See Exhibit 6.)

The **statewide, region,** and **place** "Top Occupations" tables display the number employed, the percent female, and counts of workers age 45 and over and age 50 and over for each occupation.  (See Exhibit 7.)

**6** Top occupations table — Kenai Peninsula Borough

| Top Occupations | Those Who Live in the Borough/Census Area (2008) | | | Those Who Work in the Borough/Census Area (2007) | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Number employed | Percent female | Age 50+ | % Non-local | % Non-Alaska Residents |
| Retail Salespersons | 807 | 63.0% | 229 | 7.8% | 15.8% |
| Teachers and Instructors, All Other | 781 | 68.5% | 353 | 2.3% | 5.2% |
| Cashiers | 573 | 74.3% | 165 | 4.5% | 17.1% |
| Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 559 | 5.5% | 82 | 11.2% | 16.8% |
| Office Clerks, General AGIA | 537 | 77.4% | 169 | 6.6% | 11.7% |
| Construction Laborers AGIA HOT JOB | 442 | 14.1% | 98 | 10.8% | 24.3% |
| Home Health Aides | 419 | 81.6% | 139 | 3.7% | 5.3% |
| Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators AGIA HOT JOB | 401 | 6.2% | 149 | 12.1% | 10.2% |
| Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 371 | 30.5% | 67 | 5.5% | 66.3% |
| Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners AGIA | 366 | 85.2% | 79 | 9.1% | 27.8% |
| Food Preparation Workers AGIA | 360 | 50.3% | 54 | 8.3% | 21.3% |
| Registered Nurses HOT JOB | 328 | 90.5% | 157 | 1.7% | 10.8% |
| Carpenters AGIA HOT JOB | 313 | 0.6% | 92 | 7.9% | 15.2% |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 307 | 89.9% | 35 | 5.4% | 30.7% |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand AGIA | 305 | 9.9% | 62 | 8.4% | 14.4% |
| Receptionists and Information Clerks AGIA | 300 | 93.0% | 73 | 3.6% | 10.1% |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks AGIA HOT JOB | 297 | 91.6% | 112 | 4.0% | 5.9% |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 297 | 70.7% | 14 | 4.6% | 20.1% |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer AGIA HOT JOB | 274 | 5.5% | 117 | 1.8% | 11.6% |
| Maintenance and Repair Workers, General AGIA | 257 | 3.5% | 117 | 4.0% | 10.4% |

An asterisk (*) means data are suppressed. AGIA (Alaska Gasline Inducement Act) means the occupation has been identified as a core occupation involved in the gasline project. HOT JOB means the occupation is projected to have a high growth rate and numerous openings, and has an above average wage. Nonresidency data for 2008 will be available in the third quarter of 2009. For explanations of these terms and data click here.
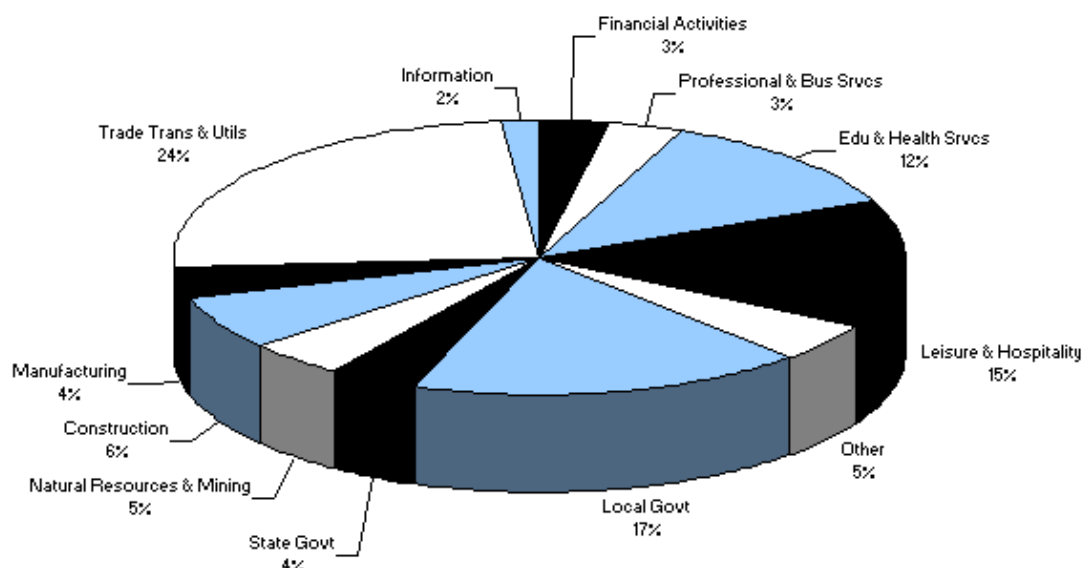
## Industry

The industry section of the web pages contains a pie chart showing resident workers by broad industry category (see Exhibit 8) and a "Workers by Industry" table.  As with the "Top Occupations" table, the borough and census area industry tables differ from those of the other areas.  The data elements of the **borough** and **census area** "Workers by Industry" table are:  number employed, percent female, count of workers age 50 and over, percent non-local workers, and percent non-Alaska resident workers.  (See Exhibit 9.)  The "Workers by Industry" table of the **other areas** includes: number employed, percent female, and counts of workers age 45 and over and age 50 and over.  (See Exhibit 10.)

## **7** Top occupations table — Homer

| Top Occupations | Number employed | Percent female | Age 45+ | Age 50+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Teachers and Instructors, All Other | 73 | 65.8% | 50 | 42 |
| Cashiers | 49 | 59.2% | 14 | 12 |
| Retail Salespersons | 48 | 66.0% | 18 | 12 |
| Office Clerks, General  AGIA | 41 | 78.0% | 18 | 15 |
| Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners  AGIA | 41 | 90.2% | 14 | 8 |
| Recreational Therapists | 37 | 64.9% | 21 | 16 |
| Receptionists and Information Clerks  AGIA | 33 | 90.9% | 14 | 12 |
| Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 32 | 12.5% | 9 | 5 |
| Home Health Aides | 30 | 96.6% | 18 | 15 |
| Construction Laborers  AGIA  HOT JOB | 28 | 32.1% | 6 | 5 |
| Office and Administrative Support Workers, All Other  AGIA | 28 | 78.6% | 12 | 9 |
| Registered Nurses  HOT JOB | 27 | 92.6% | 19 | 13 |
| Food Preparation Workers  AGIA | 26 | 57.7% | 4 | 3 |
| Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks  AGIA  HOT JOB | 25 | 76.0% | 17 | 12 |
| Carpenters  AGIA  HOT JOB | 22 | 0.0% | 10 | 7 |
| Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers, All Other | 22 | 36.4% | 2 | 1 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 22 | 77.3% | 5 | 3 |
| Cooks, Restaurant  AGIA | 21 | 42.9% | 5 | 3 |
| Sailors and Marine Oilers | 21 | 19.0% | 6 | 4 |
| Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 20 | 0.0% | 5 | 3 |
| Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators  AGIA  HOT JOB | 20 | 0.0% | 13 | 10 |

An asterisk (*) means data are suppressed. **AGIA** (Alaska Gasline Inducement Act) means the occupation has been identified as a core occupation involved in the gasline project. **HOT JOB** means the occupation is projected to have a high growth rate and numerous openings, and has an above average wage. For explanations of these terms and data click here.

## **8** Resident workers by industry table — Homer

**9** Workers by industry table — Kenai Peninsula Borough

**Workers by Industry**

| | Those Who Live in the Borough/Census Area (2008) | | | Those Who Work in the Borough/Census Area (2007) | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Number employed | Percent female | Age 50+ | % Non-local | % Non-Alaska Residents |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 2,970 | 7.9% | 908 | 9.1% | 18.8% |
| Construction | 1,553 | 12.8% | 469 | 10.3% | 18.7% |
| Manufacturing | 1,070 | 27.4% | 295 | 5.5% | 45.6% |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 4,656 | 45.1% | 1,360 | 7.6% | 15.5% |
| Information | 305 | 46.2% | 82 | 9.8% | 7.7% |
| Financial Activities | 645 | 66.0% | 165 | 6.0% | 8.0% |
| Professional and Business Services | 1,227 | 40.9% | 440 | 10.3% | 17.4% |
| Educational and Health Services | 2,968 | 83.2% | 984 | 3.0% | 8.3% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 2,576 | 62.5% | 438 | 6.6% | 30.6% |
| State Government | 1,303 | 46.1% | 546 | 9.5% | 4.2% |
| Local Government | 3,245 | 62.3% | 1,329 | 3.1% | 4.7% |
| Other | 806 | 57.4% | 208 | 4.0% | 13.0% |

An asterisk (*) means data are suppressed. Nonresidency data for 2008 will be available in the third quarter of 2009. For explanations of these terms and data click here.

**10** Workers by industry table — Homer

**Workers by Industry**

| | Number employed | Percent female | Age 45+ | Age 50+ |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 77 | 13.0% | 32 | 25 |
| Construction | 107 | 14.0% | 45 | 34 |
| Manufacturing | 62 | 35.5% | 15 | 9 |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 413 | 36.4% | 181 | 141 |
| Information | 28 | 64.3% | 13 | 9 |
| Financial Activities | 52 | 78.8% | 26 | 17 |
| Professional and Business Services | 56 | 32.1% | 26 | 23 |
| Educational and Health Services | 201 | 79.5% | 122 | 93 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 257 | 68.9% | 63 | 48 |
| State Government | 67 | 52.2% | 36 | 25 |
| Local Government | 295 | 68.5% | 202 | 163 |
| Other | 78 | 49.4% | 33 | 25 |

An asterisk (*) means data are suppressed. For explanations of these terms and data click here.

**Top Employers, Population over Time, and Decennial Census**

The next section, which is the final one for all areas with the exception of some borough pages, contains a "Top Employers" table, a "Population over Time" chart, and 2000 census information.  (See Exhibit 11.)  The top 10 employers of an area, ranked by number of workers, are listed in the "Top Employers" table.  The "Population over Time" chart is a line graph of the yearly population numbers from the 2000 census to the most current population estimate.

The 2000 census information consists of a table (for all areas except regions[2]) and a "Population by Race" bar chart. The measures listed in the table are:
- median age,
- average family size,
- average household size,
- per capita  income,
- median family income, and
median household income.

The "Population by Race" chart race categories are: White, Native, Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, Other, and Multi.  The "Native" category includes Alaska Natives and American Indians.  The "Multi" category is a count of those who claimed

to be members of more than one race.

Under the "Population by Race" chart (on all except region pages[2]) is a link to the U. S. Census Bureau's "Profile of General Demographic Characteristics". Many demographic measures such as sex and age, race, household information, educational attainment, employment status, and income are listed in this table.

**11** Top employers, population over time, 2000 census — Homer

**Top Employers**

| |
|---|
| Kenai Peninsula Borough School |
| South Peninsula Hospital Inc |
| Safeway Inc |
| SPBHS Inc |
| Homer City of |
| State of AK Dept of Admin |
| Lands End Resort |
| Homer Senior Citizens Inc |
| Homer Electric Assn Inc |
| University of AK |

**Population over Time**

| 2000 Census | |
|---|---|
| Median Age | 38.8 |
| Average Family Size | 3.0 |
| Average Household Size | 2.4 |
| | |
| Per Capita Income | $21,823 |
| Median Family Income | $53,571 |
| Median Household Income | $42,821 |

**Population by Race**

| Race | Population |
|---|---|
| White | 3,573 |
| Native | 167 |
| Black | 13 |
| Asian | 36 |
| Pacific Isl. | 4 |
| Other | 29 |
| Multi | 124 |

(Note: Racial classification is based on self identification. The "Multi" category consists of those who claim to be members of more than one race. The "Native" category includes Alaska Natives and American Indians.)

To view the 2000 census profiles of selected characteristics, click here.

**Rental tables**

At the bottom of the page of a select number of boroughs and one census area[3] are the rental tables. (See Exhibit 12.) The first table displays monthly average and median rents, and vacancy rates for all rental units, single family units broken out by number of bedrooms, and apartments broken out by number of bedrooms. The second table shows the percents of different kinds of energy used for heating, hot water, and cooking. The energy types listed are natural gas, oil, electric, and other.

| 2008 Rental Costs and Vacancy Rates | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Contract Average | Adjusted Average | Contract Median | Adjusted Median | Vacancy Rate |
| All Units | $713 | $853 | $675 | $800 | 8.0% |
| | | | | | |
| Single Family Units | | | | | |
| Average All SF Homes | $808 | $1,025 | | | |
| 1 Bedroom | $598 | $727 | $575 | $700 | 5.6% |
| 2 Bedrooms | $719 | $912 | $700 | $876 | 9.8% |
| 3 Bedrooms | $969 | $1,244 | $950 | $1,235 | 5.6% |
| 4 Bedrooms | $972 | $1,235 | $1,000 | $1,313 | 8.0% |
| | | | | | |
| Apartments | | | | | |
| Average All Apartments | $673 | $783 | | | |
| 0 Bedrooms | $490 | $502 | $450 | $450 | 2.6% |
| 1 Bedroom | $609 | $703 | $618 | $685 | 9.2% |
| 2 Bedrooms | $685 | $798 | $675 | $782 | 7.6% |
| 3 Bedrooms | $789 | $949 | $800 | $897 | 3.3% |

| 2008 Type of Energy Used for Rentals | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | Heating | Hot Water | Cooking |
| Natural Gas | 58.2% | 56.1% | 29.4% |
| Oil | 26.3% | 9.8% | 0.0% |
| Electric | 8.4% | 31.0% | 64.9% |
| Other | 7.2% | 3.1% | 5.7% |

The launch of ALARI marks the first time that the Research and Analysis section has published a considerable amount of data at the local level.  We hope that you will find it useful and convenient to have access to this eclectic mix of economic information of an area displayed in one place.  ALARI is an evolving product, and it is hoped that useful data elements will continue to be added in the future.  Please feel free to contact us at [jeanne.biller@alaska.gov](mailto:jeanne.biller@alaska.gov) with your comments and suggestions.

**Notes**

1.  All of ALARI's information is based on place of residence except for the last two columns of the "Top Occupations" and "Workers by Industry" tables on borough and census area pages.  These columns display percents of non-local residents (Alaska residents who live outside the area) and non-Alaska residents.  These data are based on where people work, rather than where they live.  Please note that the residency data for 2008 will be available in the third quarter of 2009.

2.  Region web pages lack the census table because these economic regions have been defined by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and the measures listed in the table are not available from the U. S. Census Bureau.

3.  The borough and census area pages which have rental tables are:  Municipality of Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Juneau City and Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Kodiak Island Borough, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Sitka City and Borough, and Valdez-Cordova census area.